

May 2018

Remembering Vietnam Program Series Continues in May with *The Butcher's Son/Vietgone* and *Rolling Thunder*

On **Friday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m.** the National Archives will partner with Unicorn Theatre for a Featured Friday event. This event will highlight Kansas City actor **Vi Nhan Tran** who will present *The Butcher's Son*, a music and lyrics performance. Following the Featured Friday event, a presentation of *Vietgone* will begin at 8:00 p.m. These events will take place at the Unicorn Theatre, 3828 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Admission to the Featured Friday is free with a ticket purchase of *Vietgone*. Tickets can be purchased [online](#).

Born in Vietnam and raised in southwestern Kansas, Vi Nhan Tran is torn between the mysterious secrets of his heritage and the waving wheat fields of his adopted home. A poignant and humorous folk musical memoir, *The Butcher's Son* chronicles the Tran family's escape from Vietnam, imprisonment by the Khmer Rouge, and resettlement in the cattle country of America. Tran weaves a thrilling refugee story into an All-American tale of how family stories become family lore and where one family's search for a home ends.

In the play *Vietgone*, award-winning pioneer of "geek theater" Qui Nguyen brilliantly chronicles the love story of his parents' meeting in an Arkansas refugee center after fleeing Vietnam. It's a buddy story, an all-American romance, and a motorcycle road-trip adventure that revisits how we think about the heroes and victims of the Vietnam War. Note: this production includes strong language and adult content, discretion is advised. *Vietgone* runs April 18-May 13, 2018, at the Unicorn Theatre.

On **Monday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host **Dr. John Curatola** who will discuss *Rolling Thunder: A Failure in Gradualism*. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m. This program will take place at the National Archives at Kansas City.

Curatola, professor of history at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at the Command and General Staff College, will focus his lecture on the air campaign executed from 1965 to 1968 over North Vietnam and address its failure to deter Communist resolve during the war. *This program is presented in partnership with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.* Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events. Reservations are requested for this **free program**, RSVP to 816-268-8010 or kansascity.educate@nara.gov.



Inside This Issue

SERVED LIKE A GIRL FILM SCREENING	2
BLACK HISTORY STUDY GROUP FILM SERIES	2
HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS	3
NATIVE AMERICAN WEBINAR SERIES	4

Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 W. Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

- **MAY 4 - 4:00 P.M.**
HISTORY HAPPY HOUR:
DOWNSTAIRS AT THE
WHITE HOUSE*
- **MAY 4 - 7:00 P.M.**
PLAY: VIETGONE*
- **MAY 14 - 6:30 P.M.**
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
SOUNDTRACK FOR A
REVOLUTION*
- **MAY 16 - 6:30 P.M.**
FILM AND DISCUSSION:
SERVED LIKE A GIRL*
- **MAY 21 - 6:30 P.M.**
LECTURE: ROLLING
THUNDER WITH DR. JOHN
CURATOLA

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS
OFFSITE.

May History Happy Hour with the Truman Presidential Library and Museum

On **Friday, May 4 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum will host a *History Happy Hour* program. This program will feature **Donald Stinson** who will discuss **Downstairs at the White House**. The event will take place at the Truman Library, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. The History Happy Hour is free for Truman Library members; paid museum admission applies for non-members.

At the age of 17, Don Stinson accidentally landed a job in the White House during Watergate, the largest political scandal in American history. A self-professed insignificant member of the Nixon White House staff, he frequently loitered outside of the Oval Office to watch Watergate unfold. What he saw throughout the White House ran the gamut from the deeply profound to the wildly hilarious. His stories are richly decorated with presidents, first ladies, celebrities...and events that shook America. Laugh with Don Stinson as he shares some of his observations from his "ringside seat to Watergate." [Reservations](#) are required.

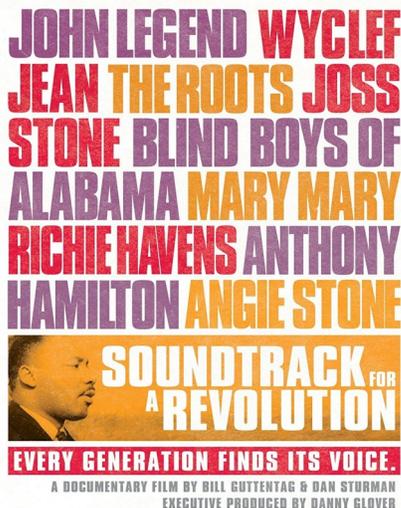
Film Screening of *Served Like a Girl* at National World War I Museum

On **Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the National World War I Museum and Memorial will host a free screening of ***Served Like a Girl***. The event will take place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO.

Director Lysa Heslov's powerful documentary, ***Served Like a Girl***, follows several American women who were wounded in action and are now transitioning from soldier to civilian after serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Struggling with PTSD, homelessness, broken families, divorce, serious illness, and military sexual abuse, these remarkable women harness humor to adapt to the emotional, social and economic challenges they face, through the Ms. Veteran America competition. Balancing beauty and brawn, they are guided by event founder and veteran Maj. Jas Boothe, using the competition to regain their identities and way of life that they sacrificed in foreign wars. It is an engaging and honest look at an often unseen veteran reality. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**. *This event is offered in partnership with Kansas City PBS and the National World War I Museum and Memorial.*



2017-2018 Film Series Concludes with American Jazz Museum and the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group



On **Monday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City, in collaboration with the American Jazz Museum and the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, will offer a free screening and discussion of ***Soundtrack for a Revolution***. This program will take place at the American Jazz Museum, 1616 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO.

A fresh and exhilarating take on one of the most important social movements in American history, *Soundtrack for a Revolution* explores the civil rights struggle through the powerful and stirring songs that inspired a generation. The film is written and directed by Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman.

This film series is presented in collaboration with the American Jazz Museum and the Greater KC Black History Study Group. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Hollywood in Kansas City

Many stories abound in the National Archives, and occasionally some feature famous individuals such as movie stars. Patricia Ellis was a popular Hollywood actress during the 1930s. In 1937, Ellis starred in *Melody for Two*, a Hollywood musical that featured the song "September in the Rain." The sheet music for the song can be found in a United States District Court case filed in Hannibal, Missouri.

In 1940, Gene Buck, the President of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) filed a civil suit against the proprietor of Gibbs' Dance Floor, a music club located in Stoutsville, Missouri. It was alleged that on June 1, 1940, the defendant, Robert Gibbs, "gave public performances and renditions for profit," in violation of copyright law. However, the lawsuit was dismissed on October 18, 1940, when the defendant could not be located, and was later found dead.

Ellis, whose real name was Patricia Gene O'Brien, is pictured on the left of the songbook cover. She had roles in more than 20 films and acted alongside Hollywood heavyweights such as Bela Lugosi and James Cagney. Ellis retired from the spotlight in 1939 at the age of 21. Two years later she married George T. O'Maley, a sales manager from Kansas City, Missouri. The couple settled in Kansas City, had one child, and remained out of the public eye for almost three decades.

In 1965, Ellis granted a rare interview with *The Kansas City Times* newspaper. In the article she downplayed her celebrity, noting the following about her Hollywood career: "You could call me the queen of the B pictures for Warner Brothers. Most of them were pretty corny. I did work with Jimmy Cagney, Joe E. Brown and Mickey Rooney, but the film I enjoyed most was done in England and not shown here."

On March 26, 1970, Patricia Ellis died of cancer at the age of 52. Her obituary was featured in *The New York Times*. For more information about this case and others visit the [online catalog](#).



Above: Songbook cover from the film *Melody for Two*. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, Eastern District of Missouri. Northern (Hannibal) Division, Civil Case Files, 1938-1989, case #81, *Gene Buck v. Robert L. Gibbs*. National Archives Identifier 583788.

National Archives at Kansas City Launches Updated Web Site

On April 30, 2018, the National Archives and Records Administration will publish updated archival research facility web pages. We are pleased to announce that this completes the first part of a multi-phase, comprehensive project to correct and modernize our web pages.

National Archives at Kansas City



We hold permanent records created by Federal agencies and courts in the following states:

- Iowa
- Nebraska
- Kansas
- North Dakota
- Minnesota
- South Dakota
- Missouri

National Archives at Kansas City, Missouri

Address
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108
Phone: 816-268-8000
Fax: 816-268-8038
Email: kansascity.archives@nara.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays



[View enlarged map](#)
[Directions](#)

2018 Research Room Closings



Treasures from the Stacks

Upcoming Events at Kansas City

Film Screening and Discussion - *The Black Press: Soldiers without Swords* - April 24, 2018, 6:30 pm CDT
Inman Middle School Concert Band Performance - May 4, 2018, 11:00 am CDT
History Happy Hour with Don Stinson "Downstairs at the White House" - May 4, 2018, 4:00 pm CDT
History Happy Hour: Downstairs at the White House with Don Stinson - May 4, 2018, 4:00 pm CDT
Presidential Wreath Laying - May 8, 2018, 8:30 am CDT

Webcasts and Online Events

Remembering Vietnam: Medics, Corpsmen, and Nurses - April 26, 2018, 7:00 pm EDT
We Can Do It! American Women in History - April 28, 2018, 2:30 pm EDT

Genealogy and Historical Research



Find links to finding aids,

Frequently Requested



- Alien Case Files (A-Files)
- Leavenworth Inmate

General Visitor Information



Find directions, information about parking and guided

Contact Us



Find phone numbers and email addresses for key staff and departments at our facility.

Feedback from the public, along with our own user statistics, indicated information was hard to find, inconsistent, and outdated. We heard you and hope the revised provide a better user experience.

To help with this, users will find a standardized web page layout for each of our 14 archival research facilities in the nation. The updated main and secondary researcher pages now have the same information and placement within the layout.

Upcoming Native American Professional Development Series Webinars

Visit the National Archives without leaving your school or home! Our interactive webinars for educators feature historical documents, images, maps, posters, and other primary sources - as well as resources and strategies for bringing primary sources into your classroom. All webinars are free of charge. **Advance [registration](#) is required.**

Programs in our [Native American professional development series](#) feature new resources for locating and using Federal records related to American Indians and Alaska Natives:

- New American Indian & Alaska Native Resources and Programs, Thursday, May 17
- Bringing Native Voices into the Non-Native Classroom, Thursday, June 14
- The Making of American Indian Treaties, Thursday, July 12

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives).

